

William Goering House
701 Main Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-206

HABS
WVA
35-WHEE
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDITIONAL
FOLIOS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM GOERING HOUSE

HABS No. WV-206

Location: 701 Main Street, Wheeling,
Ohio County, West Virginia.

Present Owner: Mrs. Ann Jane Schaub.

Present Occupants: Mrs. Ann Jane Schaub,
Mr. Michael Cunningham.

Present Use: Three family dwelling.

Significance: This Second Empire Style house was built about 1883. It has a high mansard roof, dormer windows and is asymmetrically massed. It is a gracious house with careful interior detailing. It was built for William Goering, an immigrant to the United States from Germany, who served as a bookkeeper and cashier for German-American companies located in Wheeling.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: C. 1883. The 1884 Land Book states "B.A." (building added) and records an increase of \$2600 in the value of building on the lot North one-half of Lot 32.
2. Architect: Now known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is a chain of title for the North one-half of Lot 32, Jonathan Zane's Addition.

1881 Deed, recorded in Deed Book 71, page 155. Charles J. Mayer and wife to William G. E. Goering \$1825 part of North one half of Lot 32, west side Main Street between 8th and 6th streets.

1922 Deed, May 1, recorded in Deed Book 182, page 14. Augusta Doretta Goering, widow to James Caldwell Williamson part of the North one-half Lot 32, west side Main Street, between 8th and 6th Streets.

1942 Deed, 3 November, recorded in Deed Book 269, page 338. James Caldwell Williamson to Edward D. Schaub and wife. Part of the North one-half Lot 32, west side Main Street, between 8th and 6th Streets.

1959 Edward D. Schaub died intestate leaving as his sole heirs-at-law his widow, Ann Jane Schaub, and Henrietta Schaub.

1961 Deed, 11 December, recorded in Deed Book 431, page 278.
Henrietta Schaub to Ann Jane Schaub above described property.

4. Alterations and additions: According to Mrs. Ann Jane Schaub, the owner, there have been very few alterations and additions. In 1959, shortly before his death, Mr. Schaub had the old coal furnace removed and a gas (?) furnace was installed.

Since her husband's death, Mrs. Schaub has rented out the basement and second and third floors. The rear first floor addition was probably added at this time. It is a wood frame structure built upon brick supports (the house is built on a hillside, and the rear of the house, where this addition is located, is approximately one story above ground). This addition has served as Mrs. Schaub's bedroom.

The second floor was changed slightly by the addition of a kitchen in what was the porch chamber. The third floor ceiling was dropped and accoustical tiles were installed. The back room was partitioned to provide kitchen and living room/dining room facilities.

At the present time the first floor kitchen is being renovated by a "friend" of Mrs. Schaub's who is interested in buying the house from her. All three kitchen windows have been removed and evidently were destroyed. The kitchen area is presently closed off and is virtually unusable. Mrs. Schaub is unable to sleep in her bedroom and is now sleeping in the dining room.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building.

The 1892-93 Callin's Wheeling Directory identifies Mr. William G. E. Goering as assistant secretary of the German Fire Insurance Company, and a resident at 701 Main Street. The History of the Upper Ohio Valley, published two years prior to the 1892 Directory, states that Goering was born in Germany in 1840. He studied in Germany and took a four year course at a German commercial college before immigrating to the United States. He first settled in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1859, where he was employed as a book-keeper and cashier in a dry goods store. In 1862 he moved to Wheeling, where he was hired as a bookkeeper by August Pollock, in the notions business. In 1868 he accepted a similar position with Neill & Willingham, wholesale grocers. In 1871 he joined the Central Glass Company as cashier and bookkeeper.

Mr. Goering was active throughout, serving as secretary for the Eagle and the Economy, two local building and loan associations. In addition, Mr. Goering served Wheeling as a member of the board of education and as a member of the City Council, where he represented the First Ward.

Charles Wingerter's History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity describes the German Fire Insurance Company thusly: "It is one of the oldest and most substantial fire insurance companies of the state and its functions have been exercised for the best interests of its policy holders, with the assurance of the most effective indemnity and proper economy in the administration of its affairs, so that it has naturally gained a strong hold upon popular favor and support,"¹ John Oesterling, former president of the Central Glass Company, for whom Mr. Goering worked prior to coming to The German Fire Insurance Company, was one of its early organizers, in 1867. In 1912 Mr. Goering was still employed by The German Fire Insurance Company in the capacity of assistant secretary.

C. Sources of Information:

Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley, Madison, Wisconsin.

Callin's Wheeling Directory 1892-1893.

Wingerter, Charles A. History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity
Vol. I. Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1912

Interviews: Mrs. Ann Jane Schaub, September 28, 1976.

1. Wingerter, p. 885.

Prepared by: Candace Reed
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This example of Second Empire architectural style was built in 1883. Of particular note are the two chandeliers and the etched transom window.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, three-bay front, three stories plus basement. Measurements not recorded.
2. Foundations: Cut sandstone blocks.

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Main building is common bond brick with clapboard addition painted beige.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls spanned with timber framing.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There are three sandstone steps leading up to the front entry, which is sheltered by a second floor oriel.
6. There are three single brick chimneys with corbeled caps, one each on the north and south walls toward the rear, and one on the west wall toward the alley (north).
7. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: For front entry, see photographs. The inner vestibule doors have two panels, the bottom panel wood, the upper panel corrugated glass. There is a fixed glass transom with a design and the house number, 701, etched into the glass. There is a door on the north toward the rear, which at one time appears to have led out to a porch. There is now no access to it from the ground.
 - b. Windows and shutters: For front windows, see photographs. There are presently no windows in the kitchen. Plans are for wooden casement windows. There is a window that goes down to the floor on the rear toward the alley.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: For main roof, see photographs. The rear section, addition and bay have shed roofs.
 - b. Cornices, eaves: See photographs. The addition has a plain overhang.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: For front dormers, see photographs. There are two west dormers like those in front. All are wooden, painted beige.

C. Description of interior:

1. Floor plans: There is a full basement, part of which has been converted into an apartment. This was inaccessible. The northeast corner of the basement contains the furnace room. The main floors of the house are organized along the east-west axis of a hall and stairway. There are two main rooms on each floor. In addition, the upper two floors have two smaller rooms at opposite ends of the hall. The first floor of the building has three smaller rooms at the rear. The second and third floors have been made into apartments without any major structural changes to the building.

2. Stairways: There is one stairway along the south wall. It is L-shaped. That portion which leads to the basement from the first floor is closed in by a wooden partition. The stairway has striking newel post and balusters.
3. Flooring: Flooring is wooden. Some areas have been tiled or carpeted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The entry hall and stairway up to the second floor has a four-foot-high lincrusta decoration on the wall, painted white. The first floor main rooms have two different flower-pattern medallions on the ceiling with chandeliers suspended from the center. The third floor and some smaller rooms have accoustical tile applied to the ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: The doors are four paneled-with a transom above. The doors are hand painted wood grain with a burled pattern in the panels. The porch chamber and bay window have an arch opening leading into them, with detailing at the spring of the arch.
6. Special decorative features: The windows have interior shutters with four leaves, which fold to the wall. Each leaf contains five solid burled panels and one louvered panel. The fireplace mantels on the first floor and front room of the second floor are finely finished grained slate. The fireplace mantel in the rear room of the second floor is wooden. There is also a servant intercom that runs from the first and second floor to the third floor.
7. Mechanical equipment: A furnace supplies hot water to baseboard units.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting: The house faces due east on a site which slopes away from Main Street (Route 2), toward the Ohio river at the rear. To the north, the facade abuts Alley Number Four, which serves as a driveway to the rear garage. The house sits back from Main Street with a cast-iron fence along the sidewalk. A walkway and steps along the south side lead to the basement apartment.
2. Outbuildings: There is a garage in the rear, facing north.

Prepared by: John McRae
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1976

PART III. PROJECT REPORT

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McRae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher.

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